



## Managers Report July - August 2022

### WOODLANDS

Timber Ridge is nearing completion of the CP 48-2 harvesting up Cooper Face. There was more pulp than expected but managed to secure a higher pulp price for this permit due to the long trucking distance. The block has a lot of rhododendron and slash which may impede silviculture activities so options are being explored to site prep by removing the rhodo or broadcast burn prior to planting. After harvesting is complete Shane will move to Lost Ledge to start the road upgrades and harvest CP 46-3.



Iron Peaks started falling on CP 48-1 on August 8<sup>th</sup> and are expected to be done harvesting in early September. Prices have dropped further but are still profitable, with hemlock at \$100/m<sup>3</sup>, balsam at \$125/m<sup>3</sup> and spruce/fir/larch at \$150/m<sup>3</sup>. After this block is harvested Iron Peaks will move to Keen Creek as long as the fire doesn't impede access to harvest CP 51-2, which is a 9ha cable area of hemlock looper killed timber.





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### Briggs Creek Wildfire

The Briggs Creek wildfire has been burning for close to a month now and had Kaslo residents worried about our community and us worried about the impact the fire has had on our plantations and timber. CP 36 blocks 1,2,5,6 (block 6 pictured on right) and part of CP 34-2 (which were all planted in the last 10 years) have been burnt and will need to be replanted with an estimated cost of \$200k. We will apply for funding from the government under FRPA Section 108 to cover these costs. While the new plantations were burnt, which was due to heavy slash loading, the fire didn't move into adjacent 20-25 year plantations harvested by Slocan Forest Products. This was a pleasant surprise and likely due to the older blocks being broadcast burnt. The fire crept down the Nashton drainage right to the Keen Creek road and extends up the road for about 1km. Due to variable fire severity some trees will survive but the cedar and hemlock are thin barked species so we will need to wait until next year to fully assess the mortality. Currently there are a few timber salvage opportunities that we will start developing for harvest later this fall or next spring. The fire is still burning in a few locations but is under control and for the most part is being mopped up by fire fighters. Deer and Nashton Creeks are the most impacted drainages from the fire.







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Picture looking down Deer Creek, CP 36-2 in the background. You can see the rocky slopes above the blocks are torched with most of the timber in the valley bottom remaining green.

### SAFETY

There were no safety incidents or close calls reported from the harvesting work.

### SILVICULTURE

Brushing has been completed for now. A few more blocks may be brushed this fall.



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INTERNAL

### **Wildfire Risk Reduction Work**

FESBC announced another intake for projects and we have applied for three. The first is a thin from below hand treatment below the highway where the Jimi Crack Corn trail runs, which is across from the Buchanan East Access trail where the fuel reduction work happened this past winter. Second project is the Branch 7 extension where we will build 3km of road up towards the ridge and thin an overly dense hemlock stand and pile and burn the residual waste. This will give us access higher up the flanks of Mt Buchanan and provide a landscape level fuel break. The last project is for recce, layout and fuel management prescription of a landscape level fuel break up Lost Ledge on the large bench above Lardeau. This is a planning project but the implementation will provide access and a landscape level fuel break on this forest fire prone plateau. Watching the Briggs Creek fire creep down the slopes near Kaslo has us all wondering what would happen if the same thing happened on Mt Buchanan. We are looking at funding to plan out how to make the slope more resilient to wildfire.

### **Firewood**

There are 2 loads of firewood at the airport that we will be bucking and selling by the cord to the community.